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# CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network

March 08, 2004, 21:30 EST (09:30 PM EST)

## **Outbreak of Cyclosporiasis Among Conference Participants**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been notified of an outbreak of gastroenteritis caused by the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*.

The outbreak is associated with a conference held February 6-8 at a hotel in Irving (near Dallas), Texas. The conference was attended by ~40 persons from ~16 states. The meals eaten by the group were catered by the hotel, with the exception of one meal eaten at a local restaurant.

On February 27th, a State health department reported a laboratory-confirmed case of *Cyclospora cayetanensis* infection in a conference attendee to staff of the Division of Parasitic Diseases (DPD), NCID, CDC. On March 4, DPD laboratory staff confirmed the case, by examining the patient's stool specimen. This patient developed gastroenteritis approximately 1 week after the conference. Initial investigations suggest that at least 16-19 persons became ill; one person is known to have been hospitalized. Active case-finding is ongoing.

The outbreak may not be limited to persons who attended this conference. Although no food item has been implicated to date, a contaminated "vehicle" might have been distributed to other states/localities. Previous foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis have been linked to various types of fresh produce (e.g., basil, mesclun lettuce, raspberries). Clinicians evaluating persons with symptoms consistent with cyclosporiasis (see below) should specifically request stool testing for *Cyclospora* (most laboratories do not do such testing unless it is requested).

### **Disease Symptoms and Characteristics**

*Cyclospora* is spread by people ingesting something (e.g. water or food) that was contaminated with infected stool. *Cyclospora* needs time (days or weeks) after being excreted in stool into the environment to become infectious. Therefore, it is unlikely that *Cyclospora* is passed directly from one person to another.

The incubation period between acquisition of infection and onset of symptoms averages 1 week. *Cyclospora* infects the small intestine and typically causes watery diarrhea, with frequent, sometimes explosive, bowel movements. Other symptoms can include loss of appetite, substantial loss of weight, bloating, increased flatus, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, low-grade fever, and fatigue. If untreated, illness may last for a few days to a month or longer, and may follow a remitting-relapsing course. Some infected persons are asymptomatic.

### **Treatment Protocol**

Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (TMP/SMX, or Bactrim\*, Septra\*, or Cotrim\*) has been shown in a placebo-controlled trial to be effective treatment for *Cyclospora* infection. Adults should receive TMP 160 mg plus SMX 800 mg (one double-strength tablet) orally twice a day for 7 days. Children should receive 5 mg/kg of the TMP (25 mg/kg of SMX) twice a day for 7 days. Some

patients may require longer courses of therapy. Patients with AIDS may need higher doses of trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole and long-term maintenance treatment.

**For more information:**

CDC Division of Parasitic Diseases:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/cyclospora/default.htm>

<http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/>

**DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements**

Healthcare providers and laboratory staff should report suspect and confirmed cases of cyclosporiasis to their local and State health departments. State Health Departments will report cases to DPD/CDC.

Reporting of cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at:

<http://www.scdhec.net/hs/diseasecont/disease.htm>.

Attached is a complete listing of both local and state numbers for use in reporting **ANY** disease or condition.

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512)

## District Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the District Epidemiology/Disease Reports office in each district.

### **Appalachia I**

(Anderson, Oconee)  
220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 231-1966  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

### **Appalachia II**

(Greenville, Pickens)  
PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or  
1-800-993-1186

### **Appalachia III**

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)  
PO Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

### **Catawba**

(Chester, Lancaster, York)  
PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29721  
Phone: (803) 283-3175  
Fax: (803) 283-0572  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886 or  
1-888-739-0748

### **Edisto Savannah**

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)  
1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 642-1619  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or  
1-800-614-1519

### **Edisto Savannah**

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)  
PO Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 536-9118  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

### **Low Country**

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)  
1407 King Street  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
Phone: (843) 525-7603  
Fax: (843) 525-7621  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-712-6586

### **Palmetto**

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)  
2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

### **Pee Dee**

(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon,  
Florence, Marlboro, Marion)  
145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

### **Trident**

(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)  
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 746-3832  
Fax: (843) 746-3851  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

### **Upper Savannah**

(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood,  
Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)  
PO Box 3227  
1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

### **Waccamaw**

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)  
2830 Oak Street  
Conway, SC 29526-4560  
Phone: (843) 365-3126  
Fax: (843) 365-3153  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

### **Wateree**

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)  
PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 773-6366  
Nights / Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

### **Bureau of Disease Control**

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division  
1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.